

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL JOB CREATION FUNDS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister to respond to the following question. For six weeks now we have put forward a proposal that would enable the Minister to spend \$2 billion more on job creation, not three or four months from now, but right now. We have indicated where he could get that money.

Considering that the Minister and the Prime Minister have said in recent weeks that they will consider that proposal, will they now tell us what their decision is? Will they now go to where they can get that money and put it to work to create jobs for Canadians who need them now?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has put forward a proposal. I requested him to write to me—

Mr. Broadbent: You got the letter a month and a half ago.

Mr. Lalonde:—about this particular proposal. It took weeks before he sent that letter to me.

Mr. Broadbent: Then it was lost in your Department.

Mr. Lalonde: He should not be surprised not to get an answer the next morning.

I have also said that the suggestions he put forward were going to be considered in the preparation of my budget. That will be the case. Those suggestions will be given serious consideration and I will give the answer in the budget.

In the meantime there are hundreds of millions—as a matter of fact, billions of dollars—being put forward by the federal Government for job creation directly and indirectly. There are measures before Parliament at the present time which will help remove uncertainty and will create a better environment for the private sector. I would invite the Hon. Member to support those measures, rather than claiming additional measures when he is not even ready to support those that are before Parliament now.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

REQUEST THAT LEGISLATION AFFECTING WOMEN BE TABLED

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice and it concerns the proposed amendments to the Canadian Human Rights Act. As I understand it, some of these amendments will apply to the rights of women. As the official spokesperson for the status of women in my caucus, I have been denied the right to see that proposed Bill.

I want to know whether the Minister denied that same right to the Minister responsible for the status of women, or if it is

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only to selected people to whom he is denying that right. If that is not the case, why will the Minister not table that Bill in the House so that we can all see how it applies to the rights of women—rights which some of us have been pressing for, for a long time?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Madam Speaker, it is customary for a Minister to deal with his opposite number in the Opposition. Perhaps the Hon. Member missed the point that I made earlier in my first answer to the first question, that I have now obtained the permission of the House Leader to allow the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West to show the Bill—

Mr. Clark: To show the Bill? Table it!

Mr. MacGuigan:—to anyone in the Conservative caucus who is interested in seeing it. The conduct of the business of the House is not for the Opposition to decide, it is for the Government to decide.

Miss MacDonald: Madam Speaker, that is not good enough. That is not the way legislation is handled in a parliamentary system.

REQUEST THAT BILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, I want to say to the Minister that the last time a Minister of Justice in that Government dealt with women's rights, he betrayed women. He made a secret deal to deny them equality.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: How do we know that the Minister of Justice will not do the same thing? Why will he not make that Bill available, not just to a limited number of people, but to all the women's organizations across the country so that they may know they are not being betrayed again. Why will he not table it?

An Hon. Member: Table it.

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member now knows that she can see the Bill. She knows that if her Party considers the Bill to be noncontroversial, as we believe it to be, and as the NDP believes it to be—

An Hon. Member: Table it.

Mr. MacGuigan:—this Bill could have immediate passage before Christmas.

An Hon. Member: Put it on the table.